4. Identification of referral centre for the management of severe and complicated malaria.

5. Providing alternative anti-malarials in Choloroquine resistant area.

6. Vector Control measures have been intensified by prioritization of areas for selective spray with appropriate insecticides and alternative vector control methods.

7. Newer and more effective alternative insecticides like Synthetic Pyrethroids have been introduced in the programme.

8. Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities for creating public awareness have been intensified.

9. 8 (Eight) hard-core malaria and predominantly tribal districts of Gujarat namely Dangs, Valsad, Surat, Baroda, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha, and 5 Malaria problematic towns namely Bharuch, Dohad, Godhra, Vododara and Ahmedabad have been included under Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support for additional inputs to intensify malaria control activities, since September, 1997.

10. Capabilities for Epidemic preparedness and rapid response are being strengthened.

Primary Health Infrastructure under Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana

*292. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana has provided Central allocation of Rs. 809 crore during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 for the maintenance and upkeep of primary health infrastructure in rural India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by his Ministry for the improvement in medical health care services in rural parts of Rajasthan and Orissa in particular and other remaining States in general in the context of current global threat of bio-terrorism, Stale-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 382 crores were released as additional central assistance during 2000-2001 under Primary Health Component of Prime

Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) to all States/UTs. Allocation for this component for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 427 crores.

Funds under the Primary Health Component of PMGY are being utilised in all States including Rajasthan & Orissa for improvement in medical health care services as per the following guidelines :

(i) 50% towards strengthening the functioning of the existing primary health care facilities by provisioning for:

A. Procurement of drugs (other than those supplied under the National Disease Control, Family Welfare Programme, Externally Aided Projects etc.) as well as essential consumables, including disposable delivery kits, reagents, X-ray films etc. for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. 2% of the funds allocated to the Primary Health Sector under PMGY are to be earmarked for purchase of the ISM&H drugs. Guidelines for the same will be issued by the ISM&H Department.

B. Contingencies for meeting travel costs of the ANMs, maintenance of installed equipments and fixtures, inclusive of bed linen, repair of essential, repairs/replacement of furniture and movables like beds and bed-equipment, fixtures and furnishings for operation theatres, and generators.

(ii) 50% towards strengthening, repair and maintenance of the infrastructure in Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and in Community Health Centres, inclusive of staff quarters. Priority may be accorded to ensuring potable water supply, adequate toilet facilities, and waste management at district hospitals and in facilities below district hospitals.

Government have also initiated the following actions in the context of current global threat of bio-terrorism:

1. A detailed list of biological agents used as weapons of bio-terrorism along with signs and symptoms, likely methods of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and suggested treatment for diseases caused by the above agents has been circulated to Health Secretaries and Directors of Health Services of all States/UTs, and to Medical Superintendents of Central Government Hospitals, advising them to take following precautionary steps:

Earmarking of maximum number of beds for such emergencies.

- Stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible.
- Setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. The Team should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures,

2. To create awareness about the disease, an issue of CD Alert, a monthly news letter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) covering all aspects of Anthrax including the guidelines for its prevention and control, was circulated in July 2000 to all the concerned health authorities in different states
and UTs.

3. A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential. In this workshop all the potential bio-terrorism pathogens were discussed including the Anthrax.

4. An issue of CD alert on bio-terrorism with special reference to Anthrax was circulated in October, 2001, to all the concerned health authorities in different States and UTs. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biologic war or terrorist attack and effective handling of any suspicious envelope/ package, Guidelines were issued for public, police and postal departments.

5. Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratory were circulated to all the medical colleges of the country.

6. A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organised by the Department of Health (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and was participated by Secretaries of Home and Health from various States/UTs. They have taken stock of the preparedness to face any situation including availability of anti-Anthrax drugs.

7. NICD provides investigative support to outbreak of Anthrax in any part of the country, whenever asked/required to do so. A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001, where suspected envelopes/ packages are received for laboratory tests.

Failure Rate of contraceptive methods

*293. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "The World map, Afghanistan, Government measures our members" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 29th September, 2001;